

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

POTENTIAL POWER SHORTAGE

Summer brownouts are possible this summer.

Wakefield, MI. (May 10, 2022)- The Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO), the nonprofit organization that oversees the power grids of all or a portion of 15 states, including; Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. The City's power grid is within the MISO zone.

MISO predicts power shortages this summer during times of peak demand. Two predominant factors are driving power shortages. First, an increase in electricity use as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ease, according to Zak Joundi, MISO's Executive Director. Secondly, Tradition Energy Analyst Gary Cunningham stated, "This time, we've had even more retirements of old generators, and we're not building enough new ones. The ones that we are building, to be candid, the intermittent wind and solar, are not always there when we need them".

MISO's Executive Director, Zak Joundi, has stated, "MISO's northern and central region is at heightened risk for controlled "load sheds," or planned blackouts." Therefore, the City is prepared to ensure water and sewer services are uninterrupted during temporary or sustained power outages.

In times of extreme weather, MISO may direct the City to activate emergency plans, known as Load Shedding. If the power grid is nearing capacity, the City's first action will be requesting electric customers begin conservation measures such as limiting the use of air conditioning. Simple conservation measures can allow customers to help keep the lights on and avoid blackouts.

Residents who depend on electricity for oxygen or other life-sustaining medical equipment should contact the City. Additional information will be available at www.cityofwakefield.org.